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NEWS RELEASE

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Amano to Retire from the Bench

Third Judicial Circuit Court Judge Riki May Amano today announced that she will retire from the bench on April 11, 2003.

"I was informed that the Judicial Selection Commission voted not to retain me, therefore, I withdrew my request for retention," said Amano.

"It has been my distinct pleasure to work with a strong and honorable bench. Chief Judge Ronald Ibarra and the judges in the Third Circuit will ensure a smooth transition," she said. "Everything happens for a reason and I see this as an opportunity for me to move on. My family is excited and looking forward to my retirement. They have sacrificed a lot and this is my chance to give something back to them. I have no plans at this time other than to spend time with my family."

Amano, age 50, has been on the bench since 1992, first as a District Court and then, since April 12, 1993, as a Circuit judge for the Third Circuit Court. She was the first full-time female judge appointed to the Big Island.

During her time on the bench, Judge Amano worked on community projects that significantly affected female offenders and family court matters and has contributed to many non-profit organizations.

"I thank Riki for her commitment, dedication, and diligence," said Hawai'i Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald Moon. "On a personal note, Riki has been a great friend and supporter of the many Judiciary programs and activities. We will miss her and wish her all the best."